**Assistive Technology Questions**

1. ***From visiting the websites and viewing the videos in Part I of the assignment, what information did you learn about assistive technology for disabled individuals?***

I was surprised to learn that there exists a certain amount of funding for the different states within our country for assistive technology and implementations of these devices. I was also surprised to discover that the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services of the U.S. Department of Education not only participates in working to provide services to school-aged children, but also to adults to be sure they are fully included in employment and life. I found it interesting how one of the videos compared technology as something non-disabled students use to enhance education, do research, and create; however, for those students who are disables, it is considered a lifeline, and without it, these disabled students would struggle to be successful.

1. ***Were there any sites, products, or resources that particularly impressed you and that you want to remember as you prepare to become a classroom teacher?***

I found Kathy Schrock’s Guide for Educators very helpful and was very impressed with the content and information addressed, and also the numerous and diverse resources and tools presented. Not only is this a great resource for teachers who teacher those students with disabilities, but also for classroom teacher with non-disabled students. This website is composed of an abundance amount of information, ideas, and lessons for classroom teachers across grade levels. I also found WiggleWorks to be a very engaging and productive website for the early childhood students. This is a great program that works to help students develop the necessary reading and writing skills for future success. I will definitely plan to use this software within my future classroom because there are so many students who do not attend preschool whom unfortunately, are further behind than those who did.

1. ***What promises/potentials does technology provide for students with diverse learning needs?***

Assistive technology across all grade levels promises success for all learners both disabled and non-disabled. From the motor devices such as wheel chairs and walkers, to the computer software programs such as programs, where a student is able to speak in order to complete homework assignments, there is no excuse for students with disabilities, or students with diverse learning needs, not to be accommodated within the educational system. Technology has become a necessity in education which continues to evolve and develop to provide adequate and necessary services to all students.

1. ***Have you ever had a personal experience with a student or other person who has used some form of assistive technology to help them function in learning or everyday life? If so, describe what you observed from that experience in terms of meeting the special needs of those individuals.***

Fortunately, I have had a personal experience with a student who has used some form of assistive technology, more specifically, a hearing device. When I was in elementary school, there were two twins who had difficulties hearing. These two brothers wore hearing aids throughout the school day and even at home. During class, the teacher was required to wear a small audio box on their belt attached to a cord with a microphone on it which they pinned on their shirt. This technology helped the two boys in their daily school life and, without sacrificing the learning of the other students in the class, met the special needs of these two students.

1. ***From this assignment, what will you carry with you as you prepare to become a teacher – one that will, most likely, face the challenge of meeting the needs of special education students along with non-disabled learners?***

Due to the inclusion process, and being an elementary education major, I expect to encounter all different types of students including those with learning disabilities, special needs, and non-disabled learners. It is my job as an educator to provide the necessary curriculum and instruction to these students while accommodating their many diverse needs. I am now more aware of the various types of technology that make up the world around us, and how many students are in need of that technology to be successful. I plan to produce a welcoming classroom to both non-disabled, and disabled students alike so each and every one of my students is given the opportunity to thrive.